profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150 per cent on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purpose of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

Vacant posts in Postal Department

†*42. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of employees in the Postal Department is continuously decreasing;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant at present, category-wise and the progress made in filling up these posts; and

(c) whether the work of postal service is being affected due to the vacant posts in the department and the courier services are flourishing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Department of Personnel and Training OM No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16th May, 2001, which is applicable to all the Ministries/Departments in the Government of India, the direct recruitment vacancies arising in a year are subjected to the optimization scheme according to which Annual Direct Recruitment Plan is finalized by the Screening Committee. As per the said instructions direct recruitment is limited to 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that it does not exceed 1 per cent of the total sanctioned strength. The remaining vacancies are required to be abolished which results in the decrease of the number of employees.

(b) The number of posts lying vacant category wise in the Department of Posts is as under:

Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
76	1,219	26,054	6,312	33,661

Filling up the vacancies by direct recruitment and by promotion is an ongoing exercise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Annual Direct Recruitment Plan scheme provides for flexibility in deciding to fill up the vacancies depending upon their relative functional need. Thus care is taken that as far as possible the posts meant for postal operation are not abolished. The effort has always been to match staff requirement for postal operations by redistribution and combination of duties and by engagement of paid substitutes for delivery of postal articles in case of Postman leave vacancies. Also computerization and rationalization of procedure has helped in maintaining smooth functioning of the postal services. It cannot be said that courier services are flourishing due to vacant posts in the Department of Posts.

Assessment of the projected demand for mobile handset

*43. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the projected demand for mobile handsets in the wake of growth in mobile telephony in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether ITI manufactures GSM mobile handsets;

(c) if so, whether the capacity is sufficient to meet the projected demand;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether ITI proposes to take up the production of compatible mobile handsets to meet the increasing demand for affordable handsets in view of the growth value added services;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Taking into account the present trend of subscriber additions, it is estimated that there will be a demand a about 100 million mobile handsets in the next one year.

(b) No, Sir.